ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

NEWS RELEASE



Cora Campbell, Commissioner Jeff Regnart, Director



Contact:

Travis Elison, Area Management Biologist

Kuskokwim Area Office P.O. Box 1467 Bethel, AK 99559

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Toll Free: 855-933-2433 Time: 12:00 a.m.

Fax: (907) 543-2021

2012 Kuskokwim Bay Salmon Fishery News Release 8 Districts 4 and 5 to Open to Commercial Salmon Fishing

This is an announcement from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game at Bethel for commercial salmon fishermen in the Kuskokwim Area.

District 4, Quinhagak

District 4, Quinhagak, will open to commercial salmon fishing for 12 hours from 9:00 a.m. until 9:00 p.m. on Wednesday, August 1, 2012.

Preliminary harvest reports from the July 27 opening indicate a harvest of 32 Chinook; 191 sockeye; 1,622 chum; and 341 coho salmon from 32 permits. Chum salmon harvest and catch rate were above average. Coho and sockeye salmon harvests and catch rates were below average. Due to low escapement of chum salmon and low harvests of sockeye and coho salmon the Department has decided to wait until Wednesday for the next commercial period.

In District 4 subsistence salmon fishing will be closed 8 hours before, during, and 4 hours after each commercial fishing period.

District 5, Goodnews Bay

District 5, Goodnews Bay, will open to commercial salmon fishing for 12 hours from 9:00 a.m. until 9:00 p.m. on Monday, July 30, 2012 and for 12 hours from 9:00 a.m. until 9:00 p.m. on Wednesday, August 1, 2012.

Preliminary harvest reports from the July 27 opening indicate a harvest of 15 Chinook; 1,197 sockeye; 263 chum; and 64 coho salmon from 19 permits. The harvest and harvest rate of sockeye salmon were above average. The harvests and harvest rates of chum and coho salmon were average.

In District 5 subsistence salmon fishing will be closed 8 hours before, during, and 4 hours after each commercial fishing period.

The Department will be closely monitoring commercial fishing periods to assess fishery performance and anticipates announcing additional commercial fishing periods as warranted. Further announcements will be made from the Bethel Fish and Game office, on the state web site (http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=cfnews.main), and local radio stations. News releases will be faxed to area villages and local fish processing companies.

For additional information or questions regarding Districts 4 and 5 and Kuskokwim Area fisheries, contact the Alaska Department of Fish and Game office in the Bethel at 543-2433 or toll free at 855-933-2433.